

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 STATE 089723
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /011 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S:DKEOGH:RCB
APPROVED BY AF:TWSEELYE
AF/S:DPETTERSON

-----210422Z 036880 /62

P 210219Z APR 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 089723

STADIS/////////////////////////////////
FOR THE AMBASSADOR ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, SF, US

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT OF VOA CORRESPONDENT TO
JOHANNESBURG

1. ON APRIL 18 USIA ASSISTANT DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA,
HORACE DAWSON, MET WITH DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SEELYE
AND AF/S DEPUTY DIRECTOR DENNIS KEOGH TO DISCUSS THE
POSSIBILITY OF ASSIGNING A VOA CORRESPONDENT TO
JOHANNESBURG. DAWSON WAS ACCOMPANIED BY DEPUTY ASSISTANT
DIRECTOR ED HOLMES, VOA PROGRAM MANAGER SHELLENBERGER
AND VOA DEPUTY DIRECTOR HANS TUCH.

2. DAWSON STATED THE USIA VIEW THAT THE AGENCY WOULD
VERY MUCH LIKE TO ASSIGN A FULL TIME STAFF CORRESPONDENT
FOR VOA TO JOHANNESBURG. HE WAS STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY
TUCH, WHO ARGUED THAT JOHANNESBURG IS THE OPTIMUM BASE
FROM WHICH A CORRESPONDENT CAN COVER SOUTHERN AFRICA.
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 STATE 089723

IT HAS THE BEST AIR TRANSPORTATION LINKS WITH ALL OF
THE REGION, AND IS A COMMUNICATIONS CENTER. MOST OTHER
NEWS SERVICES HAVE CORRESPONDENTS ASSIGNED THERE, WHICH
PERMITS POOLING OF INFORMATION AND RESOURCES. MOREOVER,
THE EVOLVING SITUATION IN SOUTH AFRICA IS WORTHY OF
CLOSER NEWS COVERAGE BY VOA, AS ARE SOUTH AFRICAN
ACTIVITIES AND ATTITUDES TOWARDS THE REST OF THE REGION.

3. USIA/VOA SUGGESTED THAT CORRESPONDENT, WHO WOULD BE FULL TIME VOA EMPLOYEE, WOULD NONETHELESS NOT HAVE OFFICIAL STATUS IN SOUTH AFRICA AS MEMBER OF OFFICIAL US GOVERNMENT COMMUNITY. HE WOULD TRAVEL ON A REGULAR PASSPORT, AND NOT RECEIVE ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES FROM THE EMBASSY. HE WOULD BE ACCREDITED TO THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT THROUGH THE FOREIGN PRESS ASSOCIATION, ONLY AS A CORRESPONDENT, AND NOT AS A US GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEE.

4. TUCH ACKNOWLEDGED THAT VOA HAS BEEN WELL SERVED FOR THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS BY STRINGER BARRY WOOD, ASSIGNED TO JOHANNESBURG BUT HE IS DEPARTING SOON. TUCH SAID THAT HAVING A FULL TIME STAFFER WAS PREFERABLE TO HAVING A STRINGER, IN ANY CASE, BECAUSE THE FULL TIME EMPLOYEE WOULD BE MORE FLEXIBLE AND MORE SUBJECT TO DIRECTION BY VOA. TUCH ADDED THAT IN RECENT DISCUSSIONS WITH USIA OFFICIALS, YOU SAID THAT YOU WOULD BE WILLING TO HAVE A VOA CORRESPONDENT IN SOUTH AFRICA ONLY IF HE WERE NOT GIVEN OFFICIAL STATUS.

5. WE WOULD LIKE YOUR VIEWS ABOUT VOA'S PROPOSAL IN THE LIGHT OF THE FOLLOWING CONSIDERATIONS:

A. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT LOCATING A VOA CORRESPONDENT IN SOUTH AFRICA MIGHT RESULT IN AN OVER-EMPHASIS ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA IN HIS REPORTING, WHICH RISKS REINFORCING IMPRESSIONS OF US ASSOCIATION WITH THE SAG, CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 STATE 089723

PARTICULARLY SINCE VOA COVERAGE IS ASSOCIATED IN MANY MINDS WITH US GOVERNMENT POLICY. WE WOULD NOTE THAT A VOA CORRESPONDENT'S ACCESS TO THE BLACK COMMUNITY IS LIKELY TO BE LIMITED.

B. ON THE OTHER HAND, A VOA CORRESPONDENT IS LIKELY TO FILE REPORTS WHICH ARE AT VARIANCE WITH VIEWS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT. WHILE WE ARE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE CONCOMITANT DIFFICULTIES WITH THE SAG, WE ARE CONCERNED THAT SUCH AN ASSIGNMENT COULD BE SHORTLIVED.

C. A VOA CORRESPONDENT NOMINALLY NOT A US OFFICIAL WILL STILL BE IDENTIFIED WITH THE US GOVERNMENT EVEN IF NOT A MEMBER OF THE OFFICIAL FAMILY.

6. WE DO NOT REPEAT NOT NECESSARILY CONSIDER THE FOREGOING CONSIDERATIONS OVERRIDING AND WILL BE GUIDED PRIMARILY BY YOUR VIEWS. USIA ADVISED US THAT A SOUTH AFRICAN BASED CORRESPONDENT WOULD IN ANY CASE SPEND MUCH

OF HIS TIME OUTSIDE OF THE COUNTRY. IF YOUR RECOMMENDATION IS AFFIRMATIVE, PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU WOULD ALSO SUGGEST SPECIAL GUIDELINES OR LIMITATIONS WHICH SHOULD BE STIPULATED TO THE CORRESPONDENT IN ADDITION TO HIS HAVING NON-OFFICIAL STATUS. FOR EXAMPLE, WE ASSUME THAT HE WOULD NOT VISIT RHODESIA OR TRANSKEI, AND WOULD GO TO NAMIBIA ONLY WITH SPECIFIC PERMISSION FOR EACH TRIP.

VANCE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL ASSIGNMENTS, RADIO BROADCASTING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 21-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE089723
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: DKEOGH:RCB
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770138-0303
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770433/aaaabbus.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: b34730a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: ONLY, STADIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2735445
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: POSSIBLE ASSIGNMENT OF VOA CORRESPONDENT TO JOHANNESBURG
TAGS: PFOR, OGEN, ETEL, SF, US, VOA
To: CAPE TOWN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/b34730a1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009